

**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
OF THE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**MINUTES**

A special joint meeting of the Environment, Planning & Agriculture Committee and Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on **May 24th, 2005**, to discuss the matter of the Capital Budget.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Jay H. Schneiderman, Chair/Parks and Cultural Affairs

Legislator Daniel P. Losquadro, Chair/Environment, Planning and Agriculture

Legislator Angie Carpenter, member/Parks and Cultural Affairs

Legislator John M. Kennedy, Jr., member/Environment, Planning and Agriculture

Legislator Lynne C. Nowick, member/Parks and Cultural Affairs

Legislator William Lindsay, member/Parks and Cultural Affairs

Legislator David Bishop, member/Environment, Planning and Agriculture

Legislator Peter O'Leary, member/Environment, Planning and Agriculture

Legislator Cameron Alden, member/Parks and Cultural Affairs

Legislator Vivian Vilorio•Fisher, member/Environment, Planning and Agriculture

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Alexandra Sullivan, Chief Deputy Clerk

Mea Knapp, Counsel to the Legislature

Ronald F. Foley, Parks Commissioner

Frank Tassone, Majority Leader Aide

Kevin LaValle, Aide to Leg. Losquadro

Jim Spero, Director of Budget Review

Jill Moss, BRO

Kevin Duffy, BRO

Alicia Howard, Aide to Leg. Montano

Thomas Isles, Director of Planning  
Patricia Zielinski, Real Estate Department  
James Daly, GIS  
Carl Yellon, Aide to Leg. Kennedy  
Bill Falkner, PO Aide  
Richard Martin, Historic Trust  
Lance Mallamo, Historic Trust  
Steve Gittleman, Vanderbilt Museum

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

**MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:**

Kim Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

**(THE MEETING WAS CONVENED AT 2:13 PM)**

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We're going to get this Capital Budget hearing going for Parks and Environment. I'm joined by Daniel Losquadro, who is the Chair of the Environment Committee and myself, Legislator Schneiderman, as Chair of Parks. We can Co•chair this together. We are also joined by the Deputy Presiding Officer, Angie Carpenter, as well as others.

I would like to do Parks first. Commissioner Foley, if you are out there, if you'll step forward. And then we'll do Environment right after. Good morning, Commissioner, or good afternoon I should say.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Good afternoon. What's your desired approach here?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Well, if you want to go through the Parks capital projects and if we have any questions, we'll ask them.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Okay. Our list of projects starts out with fencing and surveying County parks. That was zeroed out. That's really okay. There is \$150,000 left from last year. Both the County Executive and BRO recommended zero, so we'll make use of last year's money to get that program started. Improvements in campgrounds is ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Give us the project numbers.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I'm sorry.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

You could just give us project numbers.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

7009 is improvements in campgrounds. That's at \$730,000. That's intended to do a number of projects including rest rooms, additional electricity and water at camp sites •• just the general run of the mill improvements in these campgrounds that have kind of grown up over time.

The need for this stuff and the result of it was proven last year at Indian Island where we provided electricity and water to a new set of campsites in that park. The attendance there went up dramatically. The satisfaction factor among the campers was high. We think it can draw significant revenue to offset these costs. And 85% of the people who camp in Suffolk County campgrounds are Suffolk County residents.

Heavy equipment for County parks is for those things that aren't pickup trucks, cars, things like that. They are for light dump trucks, loaders, trailers, a number of different pieces of equipment that allow us to move around the County and complete projects, some of which are funded by capital dollars.

Improvements at Peconic Dunes would be a continuation, although it is zeroed out for 2006,

would be a continuation of the repairs to that residential camp which is a collection of cabins and shower buildings. The hub of the place is a dining hall that's going to need attention at some point in the future. There is about \$400,000 left in old appropriations. We'll move through that and we'll be back in the future to continue.

What's listed variously as improvements or paving improvements and lighting in County parks is just that. It's primarily paving. We were going to pave Gardiner's parking lot last year •• I'm sorry. This 7079. We were slow in getting approvals to move the money so we'll go back to Gardiner this year hopefully.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Definitely.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Definitely. Okay. 7080 is improvements to Cupsogue Park. That was at your initiative, Legislator Schneiderman. We are making some improvements there. They are not huge dramatic ones. We are going to test them and see if they deal with the traffic backup outside the park. Those should be in place by late June.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Which is the number on that one?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

7080.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

We don't have that in here.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

There was no request in for this year. It was \$100,000 last year that you got for us.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Oh, so it's probably already authorized.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Yup. 7096 is restoration of West Neck Farm, which is the home of Coindre Hall. We think that needs significant •• well, we know it needs significant help, and it is the subject of ongoing conversations about a number of things including the boathouse. There is some money left on the books. That is dedicated, \$175,000, to the restoration of the garage building right next to the mansion. A hundred thousand dollars to just stabilize the part of the boathouse that has not yet been stabilized and is unsafe to use. And then \$200,000 would go into restoration of the boathouse. We're talking with the Town of Huntington to come up with a joint effort for the complete restoration of that building.

Let's see what's next here. The next one is the abatement of a \\_bay bed\\_ at Southaven Trap and Skeet. That's 7097. There is an appropriation from 2005 and this asked for \$300,000 in 2006. We are out on the street right now for a concessionaire proposal. We expect those to come in later this week. This money will move contingent upon what we can negotiate with this successful proposer on the improvements they need to see and what we need to install to be a good neighbor at that location.

7099, reconstruction of spillways in County parks. That's one specific project at Brookside where DEC has told us we have to do something to remedy the high water table and neighbors basements and things like that. So that's a one time shot.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That's probably already authorized.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

That shows as 2006 on mine.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Oh, does it? It shows it 2006?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Yes.

**MR. SPERO:**

We didn't have a funding problem or an issue. We didn't write the projects up.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Oh, okay.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Okay. 7109, improvements to County marinas. This, again, continues an ongoing process of improving electrical service and lighting, replacing pilings at the various marinas. We think it's a good investment because they produce significant revenue. The waiting list for County marina spots is about 12 years long, so there's definitely a demand. I think we took four people off the list this year and that was it.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Mr. Chairman, do you want questions as we go along on these?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That's fine.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I have a question.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

We were looking at a project yesterday that was •• I think it was in the police budget, about Timber Point, about redoing the boat slips or something there •• bulkheading.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

If I could just respond to that because I think you stepped out of the room when we asked about that in Public Safety. It was definitely for the police side.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

The police.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

The police side. Right.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

It has nothing to do with the marina there?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

No, not at all.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

The only common problem there sometimes is a dredging problem, but we deal with DPW to resolve that.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. If you can continue.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

The next one probably on your list is 7162, restoration of Smith Point County Park. As you know from recent developments, erosion continues to be a serious problem there. BRO has recommended 900,000 for nourishment and 250 •• or 350 for other improvements. After 50 years of being there just this year we're completing renovation of the rest rooms in the main pavilion. The erosion problem is more serious than it's been in some time. The outer beach remains closed so far this season. It's up to Mother Nature what we do from here on. But it's a serious situation.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is that erosion, is that money for sand? Is there a matching grant involved with that from the State or Federal government?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

There isn't as we sit here today. DPW and we have met with the Corp, DEC and a consultant to try to put together a larger scale project that would assume some outside money and possibly we could treat this as the local match, but we haven't pulled that together yet. The Corp of Engineers was sensitive to the importance of the issue and seemed to be willing to talk about a larger project, but that's as far as it has gotten at this point.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

It seems like this would be eligible under the Fire Long Island to Montauk Reformulation Study for funding. If you can leverage our funds with those State and Federal funds, I think we can do a much larger project there.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Whenever we make a statement like that they say sure it would be if that study were complete. That's as far as that conversation goes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'd say we're a year away.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Yeah.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

7164 is improvements to Gardiner Park and Sagtikos Manor. There's currently about \$200,000 available, 50 of it was for the heating system, really. Like many other projects, the preliminary estimate for that is \$300,000, so we're significantly short there. And \$100,000 that's available to complete an inventory and survey of the collections in the building and properly protect those. So we have money to move those two issues although not enough. We'll have to figure out some way to make up the difference.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Mr. Chairman, if I could?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yes. Deputy Presiding Officer.



**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Thank you. On this particular project I know that the BRO had requested moving up some of the funding to six and seven on this particular project. Needless to say, I'm very supportive of that, especially as concerns the carriage house because the sooner we get that visitor center up and running, I think the more participation and interest there is going to be on Sagtikos •• in Sagtikos Manor.

Just recently the Long Island Arbors Association donated their annual project to Sagtikos Manor, and I guess it was about six weeks ago, where over 100 landscapers and arborists came to the Manor on a Saturday morning and probably did about \$50,000 worth of heavy duty landscaping and tree work at the Manor. It really made a remarkable difference and I think the more we can generate that kind of interest and excitement the more we're going to get back from the community. So, I think that visitor center is a key, so I have been talking with BRO and we are going to try and see if we can get that moved up.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Next is 7165.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Can I go back for a second to 7145, which is improvements to newly acquired parklands. It's on page 403. It is one you skipped over. I am just wondering what that would be and if you could describe that at all.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

It's kind of a catchall thing. It's •• some of these properties that are acquired we all agree should have better access for hiking and things like that, so it's informal, low•grade parking areas for people to pull off the road. It could be signing, fencing, you know, whatever is necessary to protect this newly acquired property.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Capital parking lot improvements like we had talked about at that newly acquired parkland in Montauk?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Right. Nothing dramatic, but just something to get people safety off the road who want to hike on the property.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Long Island Maritime Museum, 7165. I don't think you wrote on that so that may not •• it's 150,000. They are in need of that.

Improvements to County golf courses. As you know, some dramatic improvements have been made. Some less obvious things were done over the last winter at West Sayville to restore the drainage system there. And every one of those projects increases our ability to get golfers out after a rainstorm or wet time. It increases the golf pro's ability to rent carts. I think the golf courses are going along and improving at a pretty good pace, but there is still work to be done and we'd continue.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. There's a question on that. Legislator Carpenter.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

I guess I could wait for a Parks Committee meeting, but I just wanted to use this opportunity to commend the department for continuing with the improvements at Timber Point. We've gotten an awful lot of positive feedback on that course. It's really almost to the point where you could say it is magnificent. The views, of course, have been and now the conditions of the course are matching the views from that golf course. What is the building that's being constructed to the west side of •• on the red course.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

That's the new maintenance building.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Okay. I thought so.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

That's part of this maintenance building program we'll get to later on. That's going to essentially replace that little shack type building on the left as you come into the park, take care of all the equipment storage, whatever other materials we have stored, the proper \\_rinsate\\_ facility for the equipment. And we're going to try to deal with those piles that you didn't like out there in middle of the fairway and ••

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

And the course is marked. Markers are up there.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I didn't know it was actually done.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Yeah.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I knew we were working on it, but I am glad to hear it's done.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Commissioner, along the same lines. We've spent a lot of money, especially in Timber Point improving it, like Legislator Carpenter. Have we seen any increase in revenue as a result of those capital improvements?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Last year was a pretty good increase over the prior few years. We related it more to weather than anything else, but it was clear that once Timber Point was reopened, it shot up in the number of rounds and revenue.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Overall, does our golf courses •• what kind of revenue does that produce for the County?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

It's about eight million dollars.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Above what the cost is. They make a profit.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Eight million is our total revenue. About half of it comes from golf if I'm right. Is that your guess? Yes, so it's four million. But golf in general •• the building of golf courses has caught up with the demand for golf, so golf courses generally are seeing a leveling out of use on a per course basis.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

But still, half of our revenue comes from golf courses.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Yes.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

And our golf courses produce a positive revenue stream even with the money that we spend on maintenance and operations. We're still in the black.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I haven't calculated that. I would have to go back and look at it and see. Most golf courses are, I would believe ours are as well.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

How many do we have? How many golf courses does the County have?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Four.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

We have four.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator Carpenter.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Also, too, to that point, even though there are more golf courses being built, the cost to play a round of golf at some of these courses, use National for example, is I think at 100 bucks. We offer real value to the golfer and you are seeing that, especially when they are very flexible. Like at Timber Point I believe there is a twilight rate and, you know, a senior rate and it really encourages John Q or Susie Q Public to come out there and play golf on the public golf courses.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Yes. Relatively speaking, the cost for a round of golf is very, very good.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Susie Q, but just keep it moving out there.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

The Susie Q's move it faster than the John Q's, trust me.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And straight down the middle.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Down the middle. They're not in the woods looking for a ball. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Are they all 18 holes?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yes. Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Just to comment on a couple of things here. With the golf courses, you do reach a plateau. If you have improved the golf course to the point where it is very competitive in the market, there is just X number of rounds you can do on it, which means the revenue is, you know, not that it is stagnant, but it can rise to a certain level and it really is not going to shoot up, you know, way past that.

But one thing that, you know, I think we can continue to improve, and I know that we have •• we approved already last year close to \$900,000 for upgrades on the computer system and some of those type of things. But we really have to give serious thought to cash control. Because out of that money that comes in, not just the golf courses, but the parking fees and things of that nature •• for instance, at Smith's Point you're talking about close to a million dollars a year in parking fees. Now, that's cash collected by 17 and 18 year old part•time employees of the County.

In the golf course, and I worked in that business for a little while, it's real hard to determine whether you had 100 rounds of golf that day or if you had 79 or 80 or 82 and with the systems that, unfortunately, we use at this point. So I think it takes a significant investment in some type of equipment, but I think that's something that we really have to have a serious discussion about and possibly right now would be a good time to do that. Because cash control is just something where, you know, our income might be a million dollars more or a million dollars less than, you know, what it is at the current time depending on, you know, human factors. I'm going to be nice about it, but human factors.

We really have no way •• and I'll just go back about eight years, when Legislator Caracciolo put in a resolution and it was to try to get a little bit of discussion going on it, but it was to put cameras into all these facilities that actually handle cash. Now, that is one way of trying to

track things, but I think there's other procedures. Commissioner, have you done any more upgrades.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

The auditors start June 6th. They are •• that will put together our audit team. As you know, there's no one silver bullet you can shoot at this and fix it. The cameras were part of a solution. We had to go back and reconfigure those. We had to change all our rules for the way cash is handled. And no matter how many rules we change, somebody still comes up with a question oh, what about this, and we have to figure out a rule for that.

So we are consolidating and unifying the rules for handling cash for •• starting this weekend, in every location. We still have •• not because of lack of money but because the way the process works, an infrastructure short fall. We still have some places where we don't have electricity and they are going to be working out of cigar boxes essentially. Fortunately, those are small volume places. We will •• we're still working toward implementing the new reservation and point of sale computer system. That's part of the solution.

And the other thing we're going to do, and let this be a warning to whoever is fooling around with the money, we'll start doing ticket checks on the golf course and we'll start doing surprise cash counts in concession operator places and our own places. And it takes a collection of those kinds of things to really get at this and let people know you're serious about it.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Follow•up question, too.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Follow•up question and then Legislator Kennedy.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I'll yield because it's relative to what Legislator Alden is discussing.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

You came from the State and the State actually implemented a completely different system than that we use. And from my experience with golf courses and other type of businesses that •• like grocery stores that generate a lot of cash, it seems that the State system almost is like an inherently better system than what we have. You have got a cashier that is actually working out of a, you know, a location where they have got the cash register, everything is receipted and can be supervised. And then as a backup to that you have got the starters that have to turn in, you know, your list of who actually played on the course.

Now, I know there can be some collusion between those two people, but that's what supervisors are supposed to watch for. Have we given any thought to going to more like the State system?

And the other part of the State system that seems to me more predictable on revenue is, and I'm going to go with the one out of Montauk Downs, they have a ten minute tee time. Whereas you have established times, no one goes on to the course, like even if somebody shows up and there was like 15 or 20 minutes between, you know, when the last group went out and when you •• they don't go out, they don't start until a specific time slot that's allotted on the golf course. And to me, you know, at the end of the day you can look at a starters list and compare it with the cashier's list, and it seems to me that it would be a lot harder to fool around with cash in that type of an instance.

The other thing that I'm just talking about, you know, as far as which way we can maybe switch this, too, is strictly a rental space type of agreements. When you have a situation like we have now, as people do more in gross we take more of their money. And it's almost a disincentive for somebody to be honest and number two, to go out and develop their business. Whereas in my mind it might almost be better if we went to a system where we have X number of square feet, whether that be for retail or whether it be for a concessionaire that sells food. Charge him for the square footage, and you know what? Let them take the market risk. If they have a good year, let them keep the money. If they have a bad year they still have to pay us our •• and I wouldn't say it would be the low end of it, but, you know, a mixed type of determination on rent.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Well, on your last point, that debate over whether you do a flat fee or you do a percentage of gross rages on everywhere forever. The minute you step into a flat fee somebody is pointing



their finger at you saying you could have got more and you should have got more. So it goes back and fourth and I don't think clearly has been proven whether either one is the way to go.

The interval between times at Montauk better be eight minutes, not ten minutes, because if it is ten they're losing money.

My approach to this has been there are changes we can make fairly quickly and there are some things that are going to be much larger issues, especially if they are driven by a contract that's in effect and would have to be renegotiated or we'd have to wait until it's renewed. This whole thing of who takes the money, whether you have a starter and all that is somewhat driven by those contracts so I haven't gone there yet and definitely haven't gone to the flat rate versus percentage argument because it's all in contracts. I would rather fix the stuff we can fix quickly first and then we'll get into that other stuff. And there are ways we can find out the answers to your questions or suspicions without getting into those big battles.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

If we could, Cameron, if we could move on at this point. These are important questions, but I think probably better addressed at a Parks Committee meeting. Let's try to focus on the capital budget at this point. There's a lot of other people ••

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Well, actually I'm thinking about putting in three or four resolutions that would address exactly this and cash control. I believe and am a firm believer in this, that if Suffolk County has procedures in place that would discourage somebody from stealing, I think that's the way we have to go. If we have procedures in place that encourage or allow a misuse of the system, I think that corruption goes all the way through the system and it reflects poorly on us as Legislators, on Suffolk County government and ultimately on Suffolk County. So, it's real important to discourage and rout out any system that might encourage or allow that type of use of or abuse of.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

It's an important concern. Thank you.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator Kennedy.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I'll make it real fast. Mr. Commissioner, just one thing that I'd suggest to you, something that I have personal experience with in moving from a cash based, high volume cash base system to a cash list system, was vendicard out in the County Clerk's office. There the savings that were realized by the amount of time that staff no longer had to devote to actually emptying machinery, counting, wrapping coin, doing things like that, for the purposes of the daily deposit, was very significant.

We had two, sometimes two, two•and•a•half hours a day that staff were dedicated to actually going ahead and emptying machinery. So where you have folks that are repeat players, I would imagine that you could certainly through, you know, the automated equipment go ahead and dispense the electronic cards with value on them for the purposes of actually then subsequently swiping. It wasn't that bad, I think it turned out to be about 40, 45,000 all together. More than paid itself off many, many times over as far as the savings realized.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

We are talking about that as an innovation of this new reservation system we're going to do, but we need to make sure the reservation part of it and the cash handling works first then maybe add this in later on as an improvement to it.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I would just offer it to you, as a matter of fact, you know, for an opportunity to look see something actually in operation that I'm sure the programming could probably be tied together.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Commissioner, is there other ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Can you get golf times on line?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I think you can. You will be in the new system, you'll be able to.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Is there any more capital projects you want to bring to our attention? If not, we'll move on to Environment.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I got one more question that I got to ask.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

There are several others on the list. How you want to deal with it is up to you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We several others, actually, under Parks. Well, there's also Vanderbilt. Yeah.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I need to go back to 709 if I can. That was the County parks projects. I'm going to just ask you specifically about Blydenburgh. I see in '06, I guess, there is the 130,000, but in '07 it was recommended for 570,000. I guess there is a lesser amount. I'm just curious as to what work was that you had projected or anticipated.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Well, Blydenburgh is one of those places that needs ••

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

A lot of work.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Pretty much everything. You can •• the water system leaks, the electricity is not great. Most of it doesn't have electricity. So, it's the general campground improvement stuff we're going

through everywhere, and that's what •• 7009 is just for campgrounds.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

It would not go into the historic housing or any of the other things there on the campus? It's funding solely just for the campgrounds facilities?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

It's campgrounds and the general associated things which would not be the historic houses, I'm sorry. But campground access roads, things like that around them. Toilet buildings you can do. It would be hard to stretch it all the way to the other side of the park and do ••

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Couldn't get a roof out of it?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Well, that's what 7510 is for really, is to address these major serious stabilization needs and I know we have got some serious needs there. And that •• unfortunately those buildings are not unlike a lot of other historic buildings throughout the system where some of them are in very tough shape.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Where is it? Is that 7510? Is that the number?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

7510 is kind of the catchall for ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So if the interior renovations on Third House •• is that in 7510?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

A piece of 7510 is for Third House, yes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is there any way we can get that broken out so we can see exactly how much money is

earmarked for which project so that ••

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

There's around a million and a half earmarked for Third House.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

But then •• last year I was able to get a half a million dollars for interior renovations in addition to the ••

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

That's in 7510 last year. Is that right, Jim?

**MR. SPERO:**

Yes.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

The 7510 last year was \$750,000. Five hundred of it was for Third House and 250 was for the general stabilization account.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'm sorry. Can you just say that one more time, the amounts?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

In '05 in item 7510 there was a total of \$750,000. Five hundred thousand was for Third House and 250 was divided up among a number of smaller stabilization projects.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

A 100,000 of which was committed to Blydenburgh. Was that actually expended or will be expended?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

It will be, yes. It has not been yet.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

But the work is planned; and in other words, some of the most immediate ••

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Let me get a detailed answer. Richard, what do you have planned for Blyndenburgh? This is Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services.

**MR. MARTIN:**

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Parks. The 100,000 would be directed towards the foundation needs of the mill and also the main house. We've started stabilization, emergency stabilization down at the mill but we also have to do foundation work out at the main house.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I don't want to take up the time.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'm just trying to follow the numbers on Third House because you have the roof and then you have the interior renovations. And the roof I thought was going to be more than half a million dollars, the exterior. Is that about right, the number for the roof?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Well, all this adds to money that preexisted. I think there's about a million and a half set aside for everything for Third House. And if we •• last thing you and I heard from DPW is they would go out for bids sometime this week. That will tell us what the number really needs to be.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And I just want to make sure the money for the interior, which will follow the exterior renovations, is identifiable in the budget somewhere. You're telling me it's this •• in 7510? Because that probably would happen in 2006. Right after the roof is done we can start working on the interior?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I don't see why we couldn't. Some of the interior work is contained in the designs that are going out to bid now. Whatever restoration, repair, was necessary from the water damage is already figured in to this project. It's not everything that needs to be done, but it's some of it.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator Losquadro.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. Commissioner, in •• also included in 7510 I see the Chandler Estate in Mt. Sinai. I see a \$200,000 line for construction, but it's out in subsequent years. I know you and I have discussed some short-term improvements to this project, and my question to you is, is money needed in the more immediate future to complete those •• some of those improvements we had discussed or is that something that can come out of your existing budget? And what did you have in mind for that \$200,000 for the subsequent years?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

What we need immediately is to develop the plan that you and I have talked about and we have the money to do that.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Very good.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

And a little bit more. And that will tell us •• this may be a what if number out here.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

All right.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Depending on what the plan tells us, there's money there if we want to do something, build trails or whatever it is, we'll be able to do it if we •• if the plan says don't do anything, then this goes away.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

All right. Very good. But you do have money in your existing budget.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. Very good. Thank you, sir.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

I have a question for Legislator Losquadro.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yes, Legislator Fisher.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Didn't Chandler burn down? What's left?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes. It would not be improvements to any structures, but improvements •• site access.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Oh, to the estate.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

To the land itself. Possible revegetation of some of the areas where the houses were removed after they burnt down. So, there is some work to be done, not huge work. I don't have any grand plans, but I would like to see the public be able to enjoy it.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

And how much is being budgeted for this?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No, there's nothing budgeted at the moment.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

All right.



**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

As the Commissioner said, he has some money in his budget right now to do some short-term site improvements, but there was 200,000 in subsequent years and he was •• I was just asking what it was and he says it was just put in there sort of as a what if, if we did come up with a plan for maybe some interpretive trails or something of that nature, at least this is forward thinking. But it is a subsequent years, there is no immediate appropriation.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. We seem to have segued into ••

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

•• museums and recreation, etc. So, let's continue on that theme unless Legislator Kennedy has something on that ••

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yeah, I need to talk to Rich but I'll try to get him at the office.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. What do we want to take on next? We want to take on some of the Vanderbilt projects? Scully Estate. Who dares to approach the bench next. I see Lance, Mr. Gittelman. All right. So we're moving on to Vanderbilt Museum I see. And they start •• 418. How are you, Steve?

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

I'm fine. How are you? It's good to see you. Thank you. My name is Steve Gittelman. I'm the President of the Board of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. I am speaking to you today in particular with reference to project CP 7427.

I'd like to have you think of the museum as your hand and if I hold up my hand as example, this is the Hall of Fishes. You have made a tremendous investment in this hand. Hall of Fishes, the historic house, the boathouse, the seaplane hangar and the planetarium. To get to each

one of my fingernails you have to make a separate trip. They are not connected together. This project is the artery that connects them together. It also opens up the waterfront. This is the project for which the museum received a million dollar pledge in the year 2000.

Now, if you look in the folder that you were given, and unfortunately I don't have copy, or do I have a copy, you will see •• there is no page numbers, but if you page through it, you will see that there is a picture which shows almost a cartoon drawing of the waterfront. The project we're speaking of are what's listed as phase I, II and III.

Now, getting back to my hand, what we're trying to do is to use the waterfront to the public's advantage and to get a better synergy of the investments that you have made. We are trying to connect the boathouse to the seaplane hangar and to connect the planetarium to both of them. We are proposing that this be done as a boardwalk. That proposal has previously been accepted and the funds were scheduled for six and seven. Unfortunately, the funds have been •• \$1,030,000 has been delayed to '08.

Now, as President of the Board, in a sense I have to deal with the cards that are dealt me. I mean, this may be my hand, but you've dealt me. But I'm missing a card. You have •• we have the funds to restore the planetarium. We have the funds to restore the boathouse. But they are not going to be connected.

Now, think of the project as one long-term project for which we launched on ten years ago. This is not a new project. This is the last chapter, the 12th hour on this project, okay. What we're saying to you is that in order to get the use of all this, we need the waterfront.

Now, during the time that this project has been ongoing, and during the time when the final construction occurs, the museum has been reliant on the endowment. And there has been much discussion from Budget Review, there has been much discussion from this Legislature when does the museum propose to be independent or more independent from the endowment? And it is when the revenue stream from this waterfront that kicks in that we believe we will be independent or more independent from the endowment. If you don't deal us the last card, if we deal with an incomplete hand on this, the synergies won't work. We will fall short and we will run into trouble. We need the funds that have been delayed two years to be moved to '06 and

'07.

Now, the AAM came and as many of you may be aware, I did address this body in full session, I think it was last week. And the one paragraph I didn't get to read I will read you now, and this was from the American Association of Museum Report which was an unconditional reaccreditation, the first in the museum's history. And in my 15 years one of my proudest moments at the museum. And they said, "The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum has some excess earnings from past years in its endowment which are being spent now to enable the institution to make its programs more attractive, following the capital projects in buildings and grounds. And eventually the endowment excess funds may be exhausted, but if the planned improvements all succeed, then earned income at the museum should rise to fill the void."

The AAM is in concurrence with our long-range plan. You have taken it to the midnight hour. This is not the time to leave it incomplete so that we can't use it. And we are asking you to move the funds in 7427 from '08 to six and seven where they were.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Can I ask a question on the way the •• the flow of funds.

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

Please.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And I certainly support everything you want to do. I know if the County, let's say, were to put improvements into a golf course those revenues come back to the County. Here in this scenario we put into Vanderbilt Museum, it comes back to the County but it would be the revenues from those new improvements would be managed entirely as part of the operational cost of the museum. Is that correct? In other words, there is no return of any of the debt service at any point in this scenario.

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

No. There isn't. I'd love to give you an answer that felt better but the truth is, is that the return goes in essence to the people of Suffolk County through the operation of the museum which is run by a committee which appoints a committee which you appoint.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Now, if the approach is that you want •• the purpose of this project is to help the museum be self-sustaining, is this the best way to achieve revenue generation at the museum?

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

Well, in a •• well, for one thing is that we have a one million dollar pledge to support the project, which is ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

From us.

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

No. From ••

**LEG. ALDEN:**

A Nassau County resident.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Who's on the Board of Trustees.

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

Right. So, that's a good way of helping the museum. The other thing is is that the waterfront is •• if you look at the •• if you go from the cartoon picture, one of the things I want you to see, which is kind of •• I've always been astonished and whenever I have been privileged to bring any of you down there, if you look past •• the rendering would be a better word than cartoon, thank you. If you look at this picture here, you can see that a long expanse of what we're proposing as a promenade is already built. That goes right towards Northport Harbor. It's just that the public can't get there.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So, basically there's already been significant investment in this project.

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

Absolutely.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

This is just finishing off the project.

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. I don't have any other questions on it. Lance, sure.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

If I could just answer •• follow•up on Steve's answer. Lance Mallamo, Executive Director of the museum. When you say is this the best way to generate future revenue, the seaplane hangar is going to function as a temporary exhibition building to bring in large scale world class exhibits that we can't do right now. We don't have changing exhibits at the museum. The mansion never changes. We change the interpretation but the furnishings don't change. Our planetarium shows do change, but I'm sure you have all been to these traveling exhibits that come to AAM or the museum of •• the Metropolitan Museum and go for a three to six month period.

This would allow us the opportunity to have exhibits there. We have a huge space.

Unfortunately it's just very difficult to get there. Even to do the work on the building is a challenge where the conditions that are there •• if you look at the front cover of our report, that decking in front of the seaplane hangar has to be replaced before construction scaffold can be put on it to fix the building. With this in mind, knowing this project was going to be taking place afterwards, we have been applying for grants to secure that funding in advance. We haven't been successful doing that, but we're going to keep trying to do that.

We'll also be enhancing our educational programs by the development of these outdoor platforms. We have started waterfront programs to date on the beach, but as you can see, the conditions here are not the best. They are somewhat hazardous and we are very restricted in what we can do. It's kind of unfortunate that in the 55 year history of this museum with

2,000 feet of waterfront the public have never been allowed to step foot on it. So, that's what we're hoping to do here. It's going to be the most spectacular museum setting on Long Island. I think if you look at that view on the front page you can't doubt the potential here.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We need to move along here. We have one other comment. Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

It's really hindsight, but don't you think we did this backwards? Shouldn't we have improved access to the waterfront before we built a boardwalk and renovated the seaplane hangar?

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

Well, we proposed it all as one project approximately 11 years ago. It was broken down and segmented. And this is where we're at. I mean, you are right, it might have been better to improve access from the ••

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Because you have a boardwalk there with no way of getting to it.

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

Yes. And by the way, that boardwalk •• what we have now was an adaptation of the seawall. So what we did is we moved the seawall out, created a space behind it, converted that into a boardwalk, now we have 700 feet of boardwalk we can't reach. It's just we need to get there. I agree with you, it would have been better had we done it the other way to some extent. We didn't control the sequence.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Legislator Lindsay, I don't want to say it's totally inaccessible. There is a road down there, but the road is about an 89 degree angle. We call it heart attack hill. You can get down there, you just can't get back.

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

It's not a road we can just allow the public to use.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

It's not something you would ever allow anyone in a wheelchair to go down. I don't even like to go down it in a vehicle because I don't think the emergency brakes are going to hold. The project as we've designed it will be fully ADA compliant. That's why it's a big ticket item. These boardwalks will lace back and forth through the trees.

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

Considering the expensive hand that we have been dealt, and I'm grateful for everything we've received, what we're talking about is 2,000 feet of waterfront that needs to be opened. And to leave it closed and to leave the public without the resource, it just seems imprudent. Certainly, this kind of an asset will put the museum on •• should put the museum on new financial footing and should open up a tremendous reason to go back there over and over and over again.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Let's continue on. Is there •• there's more projects. Do you want to talk about any others? If not, that's fine.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

No. Otherwise we concur with Budget Review's recommendations fully.

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

There is one point. Budget Review mentions in their report, and I apologize for disagreeing. But they do mention in this report that the planetarium is degrading on one side, and that's not the side that this goes on. That's the other side that has nothing to do with this project.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Yeah, I think I addressed that in the memo. This boardwalk would link to the planetarium on the north side of rose garden which is north of the planetarium. The problem we were having the ground settlement issue is on the southwest corner, not the northeast.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

On the projector.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

The cost of the star projector is for the planetarium?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Well, all projects is 2.9 million. It's for projector and related equipment. Video emersion system, sound system, for the building.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That is expected to last how long, this projector, 30 years?

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

Well, we got 30 years out of the last one.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Yeah. Technically they say 10 to 15 years. We're now on 35 years with the projector we have.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And what kind of revenues do we see out of the planetarium?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

That brings in about 50% of our operating revenue, earned revenue, at the museum.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Which is what? Around 400,000?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

600 and •• almost \$700,000 dollars.

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

That's what the planetarium brings in, about \$700,000.



**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

The planetarium brings in 700,000.

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

Yes.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Right.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And this other associated cost. All right. So, the projector will pay for itself eventually?

**MR. GITTELMAN:**

We hope.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thirty•five to 40 years.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. Thank you. Is there anyone else on Parks or Recreation, Cultural Affairs? Okay. Why don't •• let's •• I'm going to turn things over to my esteemed colleague, Legislator Losquadro, Chair of the Environment Committee, to take it from here.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. Mr. Isles, Ms. Zielenski, if you would like to come forward, please. And if you

wouldn't like to, oh, well.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We have ways of making you speak.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Do not be foolish. We have ways of making you talk. Good afternoon.

**MS. ZIELENSKI:**

Good afternoon.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Same format. Let's address the projects you would like to address first and then if anyone has any additional questions, we'll get to those. So, please.

**MR. ISLES:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

And, again, if you could just address individual project numbers it would just help with us referencing them. Thank you.

**MR. ISLES:**

Sure. Okay. Joining me today is Pat Zielenski, the Director of Real Estate and Jim Daly with the Planning Department is here on behalf and to speak in support of the GIS initiative of the County Executive. But there are two capital projects that are proposed through the Planning Department. One is a continuation of the Multifaceted Program, which is a land acquisition program that is somewhat broad based and flexible. It was created by the Legislature back in the 2002/2004 budget cycle and has been funded to the ••

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

That's 7177? Correct?

**MR. ISLES:**

I believe so, yes. Has been funded to the tune of \$13.3 million for the past few years. So, I'd like to talk about that first and then secondly talk about the GIS initiative.

The Multifaceted Program is a Capital Fund Program that, as I indicated, covers a number of open space and land acquisition initiatives, also park initiatives. It was actually, as I said, created by the Legislature and basically consolidated the number of independent capital programs. Prior to that, there had been a couple of million for farmland purchases, park purchases, open space, land preservation partnership and so forth. We think it's worked out well. We've actually used it a lot lately for the reason that it has so much flexibility to it.

And, quite frankly, we also ran into a situation where obviously we have a new open space program known as the SOS Program. We haven't been able to access that for the open space portion of hamlet parks since we haven't had the TDR Program adopted until •• you did so at the last meeting. So as a result, we have been tapping into the Multifaceted Program. And at the present time, for example, we have \$18 million of funds in the Multifaceted Program that are being planned to be used by the Real Estate Division for acquisitions. So we would like to see the Multifaceted Program continued, maintained in the same levels with no increase in those levels.

And I will comment that the report of the Budget Review Office has raised some concerns with the amount of money that is currently outstanding in the open space programs. I think they referred to a number of about \$125 million. Here, again, a large part of that was the SOS Program which here again is brand new, it's \$75 million, and we're really just beginning to access that right now. That is on a time line and it does have to be expended by the end of 2007. We have about \$8 million dollars in farmland monies programed right now. And as the members of this committee that are on the Environmental Trust Board know, there has been a high volume of acquisition activity coming through. We were doing about a dozen acquisitions per month. So we think we're going to need the money.

I'll also make the point, too, that we have a total of 17 open space acquisition programs. We're cognizant of the fact there are a number of older programs, including the old drinking water programs, and with Real Estate we have been making an effort to close out those accounts. One that you will be seeing next week at committee is the WJF acquisition, for example, which is using old drinking water money from 1986 actually, and we're trying to close that out and empty out those accounts while also understanding the needs of those programs and the

requirements and so forth.

So I think in the one sense you can say well, we've got \$125 million, why would you need \$13 million dollars, and I understand that, but just with the fact that SOS is brand new and that constitutes a large part of that. And then secondly, with the rate of acquisitions being what it has been, with the new procedures that were put into effect last year, the various Legislative resolutions that have come forward, the master list from the County Executive, we feel that those funds will be needed to support the County's expected activities.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

I was going to offer the same commentary and I was going to say I wouldn't think that at all as to why we would need that extra \$13 million. We certainly have a lot in the pipeline and if anything, we've have been a bit of a victim of our own success. If we do have these funds balances, I know we will be expending them in short order.

**MR. ISLES:**

Right.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

We have made good progress and I expect continued improvement in the speed of our acquisitions. This was one of the items on my target list to make sure that this happens.

**MR. ISLES:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Legislator Montano.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Yeah. I just had a question or two. You were going over •• and I missed part of it, I apologize, but you were going over the •• you said you had 18 million available for acquisition and you were going over some of the items. Were any of those acquisitions •• because I didn't hear you mention affordable housing. Were any of the acquisitions for affordable housing?

**MR. ISLES:**

Yeah. The 18 million that I was referring to is what is currently in play I'll call it, in the multifaceted fund, meaning that it's either accepted offers or in negotiation. Once we have •• once we're in negotiation we want to make sure the money is there obviously. And so we then reserve it in our accounting system through Real Estate.

In answer to your question, I don't believe any of that includes affordable housing specifically, no. It's all open space or park or farmland acquisition.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

All right. Is this the only fund that we have available for the affordable housing? Because you mentioned there were 18 or 17 other open space acquisitions. This is the only one I understand that allows us to purchase for a affordable housing. Is that accurate?

**MR. ISLES:**

No, it is not.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay.

**MR. ISLES:**

The multifaceted is a broad program so, yes, it does allow affordable housing by virtue of legislative authorization, so that can be used for affordable housing, purchase of land and so forth. There is ••

**LEG. MONTANO:**

But we haven't •• we haven't done that, have we?

**MR. ISLES:**

There have been two parcels that have been acquired ••

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay.

**MR. ISLES:**

•• for affordable housing, actually not under multifaceted, but •• so multifaceted can be used for affordable housing. There is, however, a capital program for affordable housing. I think it goes back to 2001, 2002. That was an initial amount put in of \$5 million. The County has purchased two properties using that fund to a little less than \$2 million and we have a little more than three million dollars left over in that account.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

So with those \$2 million purchases, do you have any idea how many units that provides for?

**MR. ISLES:**

Yes, I do.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

In those two projects?

**MR. ISLES:**

It provided •• the two developments are Millenium Hills in the Town of Huntington •• I believe that was 84 units. I don't know the exact break down of the affordable rates. The other one was in the Town of Islip, which was the Sunny Brook development in Bay Shore which I believe had 13 units if I recall correctly. Those are the two projects.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

All right.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. I think that's it for multifaceted. Another project you wish to discuss?

**MR. ISLES:**

Yes. The other project we had, members of the committee, would be for the GIS, and I'm just trying to get the capital program number. I'm sorry. As you know, the County Executive has recognized the need for coordination of geographic information system activities within the County.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Do you have that project number?

**MR. ISLES:**

Yeah, let me get that for you. I had it earlier.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Page 123 is it?

**MR. ISLES:**

It's 123 of the BRO report.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Right.

**MR. ISLES:**

Yes. It's 1741. Okay. So, just to give it a brief explanation, Jim Daly is here today to speak more specifically and knowledgeably on it than I am, but GIS is a tool that's used for mapping of information. As you well know from those of you that are in the Environment Committee, all of the aerial photographs, tax maps, wetlands maps and so forth, the Planning Department provides to you, it comes from a GIS system. But, in fact, there are many other departments in the County that use GIS. We use it every day, multiple times a day for work that we do. Real Estate uses it extensively.

The purpose of the County Executive's initiative is to make sure that that's coordinated, that we have •• that the left hand knows what the right hand is doing, that we need use •• a, we do efficient purchasing and coordination of the development of GIS within the County, and then secondly, that we get full use of the power. There shouldn't be a situation when one department is doing one thing and another department doesn't really realize that and they could have benefited from that.

I'm just going to turn it over to Jim now just to supplement my brief statements. And what we're requesting on this is a funding amount of \$150,000 for consulting services, but •• Jim.

**MR. DALY:**

Thank you, Tom. It's interesting as I sat here for the last hour I listened to many people come

before you and speak about their projects and just about every project •• as a matter of fact, every project that I listened to had what I call the GIS component. I sat there and I listened about parks, golf courses, museums, and just about everything has •• it does have a geographical point. There is a point on the earth which we can associate data to.

What we're finding out is that GIS is a technology that's here in Suffolk County, we have been using it, and we have been using it mostly departmentally. We haven't really been crossing department lines, sharing the data. And a lot of the problems stems from the normalization of the data, how we go about sharing it. If Planning decides to create a database of certain geographic information and they put it in one way, well, maybe police puts it in another way, Real Property puts it in another different way, and so on and so forth.

And then when we try and link all this data together to find the real synergies of it, to really find out what patterns exist out there, really do the analysis, the functionality that the GIS software has, we find that we can't do it. We have a lot of problems and we have to have •• we create a lot of work for ourselves to try and rectify the situation.

This capital project boils down to a plan, a blueprint for the future of where we want to go with GIS in Suffolk County in the future. We feel that if we can put together this plan where all departments and the County as a whole agrees to where we're going with GIS, we'll better be able to get there in a much more efficient and productive manner. And we'll be able to realize synergies, like I said, that we haven't yet seen. So, that basically wraps it up. It's a blueprint, it's a plan for GIS for the future.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

John is first. First Legislator Kennedy then Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I guess the questions that I would have about this are just relay to me a little bit about what's gone on with your committee to this point concerning what you have been able to identify. Everything that you've said, obviously you know I agree to. I mean, I sponsored the resolution in order to go ahead and take substantial steps in this direction. GIS touches everything, absolutely, positively. But I'm curious as to where the Executive's committee has been able to



come to this point concerning what's going on with GIS. Much of what we had talked about and looked at was a lot of what I see kind of identified in this capital project.

**MR. DALY:**

Okay. If I may, I'll back up to I think it was May of last year where the County Executive tried to put through a bill similar to yours, before yours, to establish the committee. That didn't happen so executive order we put together the GIS Committee. As the Chief Deputy County Executive's designee, that would be me. I'm Chairman of that committee.

We had to work out a lot of policy issues so we brought together the committee and we realized that we needed a little bit more communication and cooperation amongst departments, particularly at the administration level. So we have been working with that and we have been communicating and we've made, I feel, good strides in that manner. We've also just recently at the May 10th GIS Committee meeting we agreed to formulate and I've just sent out notices for the GIS Technical Committee that will form now. We'll be meeting June 2nd prior to the executive level committee in the afternoon.

What that committee will do, the Technical Committee, will advise the executive level committee on where we need to go as far as the technical nature of GIS, how we can work more cooperatively at the technical level. We feel that this is very important.

We've collected from the department heads an inventory of their data. Some of it is specific, some of it is very vague, but we have a collection of the data, we have a list of what they have. The County Executive has requested as of June 1st that the department heads submit a more specific inventory of their data and I can keep you apprised of that. But as of right now we're ironing out a lot of the policy types of issues where GIS is concerned, and now we're just beginning to make moves towards addressing the technical end.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I'm obviously very interested in it. I continue to remain interested in GIS. I personally still am of the belief that, I guess, there are some things that we might have achieved, vis•a•vis the resolution, notwithstanding what might have gone on prior to my time here. But I do certainly agree the GIS has very important aspects. FRES, I think, is someplace where it will have direct application. I know Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services will benefit a lot from it. I'll turn it over to Legislator Lindsay.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Budget Review recommends increasing the amount to \$194,000. Do you agree with that number or can you do it for the 150 as per requested?

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

No, they don't want more money, though.

**MR. ISLES:**

Yeah, I think we'd like to review that and maybe talk to them a little bit further. Obviously more money is something we typically would like to see, but I think we would like to look at it, talk to them a little bit further and then talk with the Executive staff as well.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

And the retort. Legislator Kennedy.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I just kind of go back to, I guess, having, again, been involved in the actual RFP process and soliciting, I guess, private outfits to go ahead and do the inventory, do the planning, and then do a lot of the software development. Just give me a sense, how big is the universe out there as far as the number of outfits that you would actually solicit and who would actually go through constructing, I guess, the bid in order to let this.

**MR. DALY:**

Let me start with the first part. Who is out there, is that the question? What consultant agencies that would want to do this project?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yes.

**MR. DALY:**

Okay. Well, first of all, we would have to draw up the RFP, and I'd work with the Technical Committee on that, as to what we feel should be in the project, what should be composed of the RFP. How many consulting firms are out there, God knows how many there are. There •• on a national level there could be thousands, I'm not sure at this point. But there are forms through which we can advertise what we're trying to do where these companies •• for instance, there is GISbids.com, I believe, where if you have a capital project or a GIS related project you can put it up there and post it there.

There you are going to get •• I mean, anyone who is in the GIS business knows about that site. They are going to go there to look to try and secure a contract. That's for starters, that's where it would go, not to mention it would be released in the proper channels as any, I guess, any other contract within the County that we put out for bid. And I'm sorry, the second part of your question was?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I was just curious as to who you try to pull together to actually craft the RFP itself. And again, it is kind of like chicken and egg process. You identified that there is disparate databases out there. You know, who's in Oracle, who is in Microsoft, who is in wherever.

**MR. DALY:**

Well, that, again, as I mentioned earlier, the Technical Committee that we just recently formed, it is one of the first points on the agenda, is to start to develop a strategic vision as to where we have to go. That's, again, pulling in all those department people that are GIS savvy, if you will.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

And those that aren't.

**MR. DALY:**

And the ones that aren't. And there's a lot of data out there that maybe is not GIS related that when you make spacial component relation, it proves to be economically very valuable. So, we know that, too, and we want to identify that data as well. So we've made a call to all the technical people, as many that I could think of in the County, and hopefully they will show up.

I have gotten a lot of favorable responses for the Technical Committee. So with their help, and if the County Executive supports our GIS endeavors with support, perhaps there will be a little bit of growth in the new GIS Division in Planning and that we can have some more support with GIS personnel.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. I still have an interest in it, so maybe you and I will get a chance to talk.

**MR. DALY:**

I hope so. Thank you.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Good.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. Legislator Vilorio•Fisher, you have one question?

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

Yes, it's for Budget Review. You recommend that this money not be bonded but rather that we use pay•as•you•go. Now, that's 5•25•5 is the criteria. It's clearly more than the \$25,000.

And is it because you see this as •• well, it's not on going because this is a one•shot deal, so why it be as pay•as•you•go.

**MR. SPERO:**

Consultant studies or purchase of computer equipment are almost always five year useful life, so they meet the pay•as•you•go criteria.

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

Now •• but is this actually the purchase of computer equipment or a study on how we should move forward on this. May I ask you that question?

**MR. DALY:**

The first part of it, as it's I believe in the book, the Budget Review book, it's parsed out by

phase. I put it down that way to simply how we foresee the study unfolding. The first part of it really takes place with consultants coming in and doing an in-depth interview, you know, finding out what's out there, what we have. And then as we take that information, they'll take that information and move to the next step, and that would be to start doing the analysis, applying the business processes of the departments to the GIS functionality.

And that's what they have to do after the fact, and then what we want to do is take what they find out, in other words, the examples of the best GIS functions, and then purchase whatever hardware or software that might be necessary at that time to implement that portion of it, a pilot project, if you will.

**LEG. VILORIA FISHER:**

Okay, but I don't know if my question was clear then.

**MR. DALY:**

Okay.

**LEG. VILORIA FISHER:**

Because Budget Review had suggested that the way we finance this would be pay-as-you-go. And the rationale that Mr. Spero just indicated they used was that the life cycle of computer hardware is five years. But what I'm asking is if the consultant is in fact looking at the way a department is functioning, the way the model is functioning, that this is not simply for the purpose of hardware that would have a lifespan of five years, but for the establishing of a model, a functioning model that would certainly last beyond the five year lifespan.

And so the argument to you use pay-as-you-go money as opposed to a capital project, which is establishing a system that would have a long life or a functionality model that would have long life, would be the argument that would apply here. That's why I'm asking which of those scenarios do you see as defining this project.

**MR. SPERO:**

The useful life over the projects is determined by the local finance law and bond counsel. So a building typically is 20 years. A building in actuality lasts fifty years. I mean, we don't bond it for 50. We only bond up to 20. So, this is the similar situation.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay. But what I'm saying, Jim, is that this is not just for the purchase of hardware, that this is for creating a functional model that •• where we would put in the hardware as we needed over the years.

I'm just •• I'm not trying to dispute what you're saying. I'm just trying to understand the parameters that we're using in establishing how we're going to or perhaps understand why the County Executive's people put this as a, you know, as a bonded item rather than pay•as•you•go, and I'm trying to understand what their rationale was and how they were defining the problem or the project.

**MR. SPERO:**

There are a number of projects included in the Capital Program that are pay•as•you•go projects that are shown to be bonded. And we've made numerous recommendations throughout our report to change the funding source from bonds to pay•as•you•go.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Now •• but there was a project that we saw in Parks where they were putting up fences and other maintenance •• that look like maintenance projects which are being bonded. Did you recommend that they go as pay•as•you•go?

**MR. SPERO:**

The fence one, I don't recall what we did on that one. Usually ••

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

I'm trying to remember the number on that.

**MR. SPERO:**

Primarily with the computer type projects, and/or consultant studies in relation to that. That's where we made most of our recommendations.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay. Did you have any more to say on that or?

**MR. DALY:**

(Shaking head no)

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

You don't deal with this pay•as•you•go as opposed to bonding.

**MR. DALY:**

I'll leave the money up to you.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Very good. Thank you. Did you have any other projects you wish to discuss?

**MR. ISLES:**

We do not.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

I just have one question, just on 7151. That's the Greenways infrastructure and matching funds.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

What page are you on?

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

That's 404, project 7151. It's recommended \$500,000 annually, '06, '07. I was just wondering if I could just get some input. I know that goes through Real Estate, correct, the vouchers for that money.

**MR. ISLES:**

Right.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Seeing as though last year that amount was increased from 100 to \$250,000 that a group

would be eligible for, even though the number of groups that could potentially raise \$250,000 would be somewhat limited, we do have other municipalities that we partner with that could very easily reach that. Do you think \$500,000 per year is sufficient, what historically has been the pay out under this program, and should we be looking to increase this fund just to accommodate some of these larger projects that may take place.

**MR. ISLES:**

I'll just point out, Mr. Losquadro, that this is under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, the program. I'm somewhat familiar with it and I believe Ms. Zielenski is somewhat familiar with it. But I think in answer to your question the •• you know, is it enough money. One way of looking at it would be how much have we spent in the past, and I think there's been actually very little.

So my recollection is we had the project in Amityville on the Montauk Highway, which was a purchase of land that the County did and it was a bill sponsored by Legislator Mystal to provide 100 or \$200,000 for improvements. There have been a couple of others discussed, but I don't think there's been a heck of a lot that have actually been applied at this point.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

No, absolutely. I was under the impression that the vouchers went through the Real Estate Department. If I'm mistaken there, I apologize. That was the only other one I wanted to bring up.

**MS. ZIELENSKI:**

I think they did, but I'm not sure why they do.

**MR. ISLES:**

It's a relatively new program.

**MS. ZIELENSKI:**

Because we have the accounting capabilities for the payout's.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. Very good. Any other questions from members of the committee regarding projects in



Planning or Real Estate?

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Counsel just mentioned to me the page that was on was 403. It was project title 7145. I just •  
• Jim, that was the project to which I was referring.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

That's improvements to newly acquired parkland?

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Newly acquired parkland which seemed •• it's \$37,500 in 2006. And it looks like a removal of debris, fencing, gates, which look like they would fall under the 5•25•5 criteria. And so I was comparing that kind of project with the GIS project, which, as I said, I don't see as just the acquisition of hardware or a consultant fee. I see it as the establishment of the functionality of a system over a period of years. And, you know, so my interpretation of 5•25•5, I was just surprised to see that the recommendation there was •• I'm finished, I'm not ••

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Oh, no, no problem. No, Legislator Lindsay had an additional comment as well.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

The only thing that I wanted to clarify on this issue, and correct me, Jim, if I'll wrong, but we have the ability to waive the pay•as•you•go rules for an individual project or for a whole year. Am I correct?

**MR. SPERO:**

That's correct. By local law you can waive the rule and that was done for 2004 and 2005. Even if you waive the rule you still have the option to fund projects on a pay•as•you•go basis.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Legislator Kennedy.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Let's take this dead horse and see if we can beat it just a little more. After the consultant study is back in and there is recommendation concerning whatever the particular hardware or

software applications might be, I imagine that you envision this hardware being in Planning. You are not talking about hardware acquisition and software for distribution amongst all County departments, are you?

**MR. DALY:**

For this portion for this particular project we envision that hardware to be in Planning, or either Planning or IS or a combination of both. Just those two agencies, if needed.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

And are you going to look at any kind of web access for this, intranet or internet?

**MR. DALY:**

Yes, that will all be included in the whole project. As a matter of fact, it will be a major component to it because that's how it is going to be accessible through all County personnel without having to go around to each desktop and install GIS software.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. And I thank you for your commentary on these projects. Is there anyone else wishing to be heard on capital budget matters pertaining to Parks or Environment? Seeing none, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

**(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:34 PM)**

**\\_DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY\\_**